

Long Term Management Strategy for Dredged Material in the Delta (Delta LTMS)

CHARTER

VISION

Dredging will take place in a manner in which Delta sediments are used beneficially to provide for navigation and flood control, rehabilitate levees, protect water quality, enhance the delta ecosystem, and allow for economic growth in the region.

GOALS

The Delta LTMS will facilitate development of long-term management approach for the Delta sediments based on science, enhanced communication and coordination among the stakeholders, and resolution of issues surrounding Delta dredging and beneficial use of sediments. The agency and stakeholder meetings will serve as a forum for developing a Delta Long Term Management Strategy for Delta sediments detailed in a Sediment Management Plan (SMP), and for promoting its implementation.

The goals of the Delta LTMS as finalized in the SMP are to manage dredging and sediment management activities to:

- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities, water conveyance, and terrestrial systems
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function
- Support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and recreation

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The participating agencies of the Delta LTMS will embrace and operate under the Delta LTMS Process Framework.

The participating agencies are committed to completion and timely implementation of the Delta LTMS and Sediment Management Plan.

The agenda and issues to be addressed will be determined by the Delta LTMS agencies in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders.

The Delta LTMS will provide for peer review of sediment studies through the Science Review Panel.

Information will be sought from stakeholders to help clarify specific issues as well as provide factual data on the issues.

Participation in development of the Delta LTMS will not supersede or otherwise affect any authority of the participating agencies.

The Delta LTMS will serve as a Regional Dredging Team under the National Dredging Policy.

MEMBERSHIP

The Delta LTMS is organized to include an executive committee, management committee, interagency working group, policy review group, and science and technical groups as described in this section. In addition, public meetings are held periodically to provide additional opportunities for input and feedback from interested parties.

Executive Committee

At the top level, an Executive Committee directs the overall program, sets policy direction, and provides oversight of the study. The directors of each of the following agencies serve on the Executive Committee. The executive managers have the decision-making authority to represent the agency on the policy and regulatory issues to be addressed. The agency Executive Committee generally meets annually or as necessary to set policy direction for the study and keep abreast of the progress of the Delta LTMS.

Federal Agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Commander, South Pacific Division
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Administrator, Region 9

State Agencies

- State Water Resources Control Board, Chairperson
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Chairperson
- California Department of Water Resources, Director
- Resources Agency, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Director
- Delta Protection Commission, Chairperson

Management Committee

The Management Committee consists of the deputy-level managers for the state and federal agencies. The Management Committee oversees the work of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) and the Policy Review Group, reviews policy recommendations, study plans, budget proposals, and provides recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Management Committee generally meets quarterly. Members of the Management Committee are:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Commander, San Francisco District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Commander, Sacramento District
- California Department of Water Resources, Deputy Director, Public Safety
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Associate Director, Water Division, Region 9
- Resources Agency, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Chief Deputy Director
- State Water Resources Control Board, Executive Officer
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Executive Officer
- NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Region
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region
- California Department of Fish and Game

Interagency Working Group

The Interagency Working Group (IWG) includes program-level staff at five agencies. The IWG serves as the primary program managers of the Delta LTMS process and steering committee for the Policy Review Group. The IWG coordinates with the Management Committee, the Policy Review Group and others with an interest in Delta activities and the LTMS process. The IWG's role is to identify study issues and questions to be addressed such as: identify technical work groups and expert resources, confirm purpose, charter, and assignments for the science advisory teams and technical review groups, discuss and review study work plans and scopes, discuss and review study budgets and resource needs, prepare and approve study reports, and develop management and policy options for the Management and Executive Committees. The members of the IWG consist of the following:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
- Resources Agency, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
- California Department of Water Resources

The Management Committee may identify other participants in the IWG.

Policy Review Group

Delta LTMS activities are informed by the Policy Review Group consisting of representatives of other agencies, stakeholders, and interest groups in the Delta working in or affected by dredging and beneficial use activities for navigation, levee stability, flood control, water quality, or ecosystem restoration. The Interagency Working Group coordinates meetings monthly or as needed with the Policy Review Group to identify, review, and discuss: 1) the Delta sediment issues of concern to be addressed by the Delta LTMS and in what order, 2) lines of inquiry that the science and technical work groups will be tasked to pursue, 3) coordinated regulatory approach for Delta dredging to be approved by the Executive Committee.

Members of the Policy Review Group may also provide public comment at the Management and Executive Committee meetings. The Policy Review Group includes, but is not limited to the following organizations:

State and Federal Agencies

- NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Region
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Region
- California Department of Fish & Game
- Delta Protection Commission
- State Lands Commission
- Reclamation Board

Local/Regional Agencies

- Reclamation Districts
- Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, and San Joaquin Counties
- North, Central, and South Delta Water Agencies

Stakeholders and Interest Groups

- The Ports of Sacramento and Stockton
- Bay Planning Coalition
- DeltaKeeper
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Bay Institute
- Environmental Water Caucus
- California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
- California Farm Bureau Federation
- State Water Contractors
- California Delta Chambers

Science and Technical Groups

A Science Review Panel of independent scientists, as well as science and technical work groups will be formed as determined by the Management Committee.

AGREEMENT

Participants in the Delta Long Term Management Strategy agree to fully participate in the study activities and will operate under this Charter.

This charter shall be effective upon the date of signature.

Signed by:

Colonel (P) John R. McMahon
Commander, South Pacific Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator, Region 9
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Date

Lester Snow
Director
California Department of Water Resources

Date

Tam M. Doduc
Chairperson
State Water Resources Control Board

Date

Robert Schneider
Chairperson
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region

Date

Joe Grindstaff
Director
Resources Agency, CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Date

Mike McGowen
Chairperson
Delta Protection Commission

Date